



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

North Coast Region

William A. Hoy, Chairman

Winston H. Hickox
*Secretary for
Environmental
Protection*

Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb1/>
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403
Phone 1-877-721-9203 (toll free) • Office (707) 576-2220 • FAX (707) 523-0135



Gray Davis
Governor

October 31, 2000

The Kelly Family 1994 Trust
c/o Ms. Cynthia Kelly (Trustee)
90 Wilshire Avenue
Daly City, California 94015

Ms. Claudette Gibbs
2357 Baggett Court
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Kelly and Ms. Gibbs:

Subject: California Water Code Section 13267 Order Regarding
Sonoma French Dry Cleaners, 946 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA
Case No. 1NSR321

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is currently investigating groundwater contamination in the area of West College Avenue and Clover Drive, Santa Rosa, California. Drinking water wells in this area are contaminated with a chemical named tetrachloroethene or PCE. PCE is a solvent generally associated with the dry cleaning industry.

The following information was obtained from various agency documents:

- ◆ The Kelly Family 1994 Trust is the owner of the property, listed as APN No. 037-031-52, located at 920 through 950 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, California (hereinafter "site"). A commercial strip mall currently occupies the site.
- ◆ From 1984 through 1993, a dry cleaning business occupied a storefront in the strip mall at 946 West College Avenue. From 1984 through 1986, the dry cleaning business operated as Santa Rosa French Cleaners. From 1986 through 1993, the dry cleaning business operated as Sonoma French Cleaners. City of Santa Rosa records indicate that the owner and operator of Santa Rosa French Cleaners and Sonoma French Cleaners was Claudette Gibbs.
- ◆ Records indicate that Claudette Gibbs, doing business as Sonoma French Cleaners, was issued at least one violation by the City of Santa Rosa Industrial Waste Superintendent for the unpermitted release of wastewater containing PCE to the city-owned sewer on December 6, 1992. Additionally, according to the City of Santa Rosa Industrial Waste Division reports, poor management practices related to improper solvent handling and disposal were evident in the operation of Sonoma French Cleaners.

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- ◆ County of Sonoma and City of Santa Rosa records from 1949 to 1993 indicate that a dry cleaning business operated almost continuously for forty-four years at 946 West College Avenue. It is likely that during this time period, PCE was used at these businesses and that releases of PCE to the environment may have occurred at 946 West College Avenue.
- ◆ On August 18, 2000, Regional Water Board staff collected water samples from domestic supply wells in the area near the intersection of West College Avenue and Clover Drive, Santa Rosa. Two wells located in the parcels adjacent to and directly east and west of the subject property contain 292 parts per billion (ppb) and 306 ppb PCE, respectively. These levels are 60 times the level considered safe for drinking and domestic use by the state and federal government. Enclosure 1 is a letter from the California Department of Health Services summarizing the significance of the threat caused by this pollution.

Under the California Water Code (CWC) Section 13267(b), the Regional Water Board may require "any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of discharging, or proposes to discharge waste" to furnish technical or monitoring program reports. Based on the current available information, The Kelly Family 1994 Trust and Claudette Gibbs have responsibility for investigation, cleanup and abatement actions for the discharge of PCE and related dry cleaning chemicals.

Therefore, pursuant to CWC Section 13267(b), I hereby require you to:

1. Submit a workplan to investigate soil and groundwater contamination with respect to PCE and related chemicals of concern. The investigation shall determine the source of PCE and chemicals of concern at the site and define the complete lateral and vertical extent of contamination. The workplan shall be prepared, signed and stamped by a California registered geologist or professional civil engineer. The workplan shall be submitted by November 30, 2000.
2. Submit a report of chemical use practices including any historical maps, building plans, construction diagrams, or other documents related to chemical and waste storage and use at the site.
3. Submit a report containing copies of any and all lease agreements related to the operation of the dry cleaners as well as copies of any and all insurance policies.

I require that these reports and documents be submitted pursuant to section 13267 of the California Water Code by November 30, 2000.

If you have any questions you may call Jo Bentz at (707) 576-2838.

Sincerely,

Lee A. Michlin
Executive Officer

Enclosure: Department of Health Services letter

Mr. Chris Murray, City of Santa Rosa Utilities Department, 4300 Llano Road,
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Mr. Jim Frank, Santa Rosa Fire Department
Ms. Tracy Barreau, Department of Health Services, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1700,
Oakland, CA 94612
Mr. Bruce Burton, Drinking Water Program, 50 D Street, Suite 200,
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-4752
Mr. Lauren Brown, III, Santa Rosa Department of Public Works, 69 Stony Circle,
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Mr. J.J. Krug, Sonoma County Environmental Health Department, 1030 Center Drive,
Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Ms. Sharon Marchetti, 789 Lombardi Court, Suite 205, Santa Rosa, CA 95407